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Letter dated 22 December 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Spain and the United Kingdom, as Co-Chairs of the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, have the honour to transmit herewith a summary note of the meeting held on 14 September 2016 on women and peace and security in Mali (see annex).

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Román **Oyarzun**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Matthew **Rycroft**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations

16-23006 (E) 090117

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Annex to the letter dated 22 December 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security

Summary of the follow-up meeting on Mali, 14 September 2016

The meeting was attended by members of the Security Council and representatives of the United Nations Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes. The main briefers were the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), Mahamat Saleh Annadif, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Koen Davidse, and the country representative of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in Mali, accompanied by senior mission staff and heads of United Nations agencies.

MINUSMA noted that women continued to be largely absent from the implementation mechanisms of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, the sole exception being the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. There was only one woman among the 62 Malian members of the Agreement Monitoring Committee and its subcommittees, which were made up of representatives of the signatory parties. Women's representation among the international mediation members of the Monitoring Committee was also very low. More progress had been made by the Commission, which had begun its work and included six women among its 24 members. The number of women in Government had slightly increased in the most recent reshuffling of the cabinet.

In meetings with the Government of Mali, MINUSMA continued to advocate for a 30 per cent quota for women in decision-making bodies. It was hoped that a decree on the gender promotion law issued at the end of 2015 would be adopted in time to have an effect on the local elections in November 2016.

As part of the implementation of the national action plan, women's civil society organizations continued to push for 30 per cent representation in all relevant institutions and the earmarking of 15 per cent of all post-conflict funding towards gender equality. Several donors have made recent significant contributions towards the implementation of the plan, and MINUSMA and UN-Women have established a coordination group for training on human rights and gender for Malian forces, involving several international actors. There is a need to continue to recognize women's roles and agency in disarmament and demobilization and in the prevention of conflict and violent extremism.

In response to questions from Security Council members, participants from Bamako and New York added the following points:

- **Mission capacity.** MINUSMA currently has five staff members working on conflict-related sexual violence, but this capacity is insufficient to fully address all aspects of the issue, including liaising with armed groups, supporting the Government and providing legal support to the Malian military.

Three of the seven positions in the gender unit are vacant; these positions need to be filled to ensure that gender mainstreaming is implemented and institutionalized within the Mission.

- **Gender balance within the Mission.** MINUSMA has one of the lowest rates of gender balance among peacekeeping missions. There is a need to redouble advocacy efforts in negotiations with troop- and police-contributing countries and to prioritize women for senior posts within MINUSMA, as gender balance declined both in the military and the civilian components.

- **Women's leadership within the Mission.** Participants in the meeting welcomed the fact that the Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award was awarded to Major Aichatou Ousmane Issaka (Niger) at the Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial event, held in London in September 2016. The award recognizes Major Issaka's efforts in promoting the principles of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and in reaching out to women in the local community in Mali. In addition, a woman will be appointed head of the MINUSMA field office in Mopti.

- **Conflict-related sexual violence.** Following the visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, a joint communiqué to be issued with the Government is being negotiated. The non-State armed groups that are part of the Platform coalition also issued a unilateral communiqué on conflict-related sexual violence.

The Secretariat recommended that the Informal Expert Group continue to keep Mali on the agenda and that it consider sending a letter to Malian counterparts to encourage women's representation in key decision-making institutions created with a view to implementing the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation, and to encourage the fight against impunity for conflict-related sexual violence. Furthermore, the Security Council should ensure that the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities have the capacity and expertise to address gender issues and gross violations of women's rights. The Co-Chairs thanked MINUSMA for sharing detailed information on developments in the past six months and stated that they were encouraged to hear about the Mission's dedication to gender equality and to the women and peace and security agenda.

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Letter dated 22 December 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Spain and the United Kingdom, as Co-Chairs of the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, have the honour to transmit herewith a summary note of the meeting held on 18 October 2016 on women and peace and security in Iraq (see annex).

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Román **Oyarzun**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Spain
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(*Signed*) Matthew **Rycroft**
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16-23008 (E) 090117

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Annex to the letter dated 22 December 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security

Summary of the follow-up meeting on Iraq, 18 October 2016

The meeting was attended by members of the Security Council and representatives of the United Nations Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes. The main briefer was the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Political Affairs, United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), György Busztin, accompanied by senior mission staff and heads of United Nations agencies from Baghdad and Erbil.

The Mission expressed serious concern over the humanitarian situation of women and girls in the wake of the impending military operation to liberate Mosul from Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), in a context in which one third of the population of Iraq is already in need of humanitarian assistance and several million people will be newly displaced in the coming months. Approximately 3,000 Yazidi women and girls are believed to be enslaved, and there are rumours that they have been recently moved to strategic locations to be used as human shields. Human rights monitors have noted that the prices of women and girls have doubled or tripled in recent days and that there is increased trafficking activity.

Women's protection concerns in Iraq go beyond sexual violence. Women may suffer retaliation or be suspected of having collaborated with ISIL, be the victims of so-called "honour killings" or be subjected to indefinite family separation. Ahead of the attack on Mosul, Iraq already had 1.6 million widows; this number is expected to increase in the next few weeks. In the areas it occupies, ISIL has been targeting not just members of minority communities, but all women who do not conform to their interpretation of gender roles, including doctors, journalists, members of parliament or women in public life in general. There is concern about the treatment of children born of rape by ISIL fighters and how they will be registered and listed in their birth certificates.

In addition, throughout the country, the escalation of the conflict has coincided with reduced space for women's political representation and economic participation and the protection of their rights. It is imperative to advocate for temporary special measures for women's participation in any transition plans, especially in liberated areas.

In response to questions from Security Council members, participants from Baghdad, Erbil and New York added the following points:

- The stronger language on women and peace and security in the mandate of UNAMI after the first meeting of the Informal Expert Group on Iraq was welcomed by the Mission's national partners in the Government and civil society.

- There is a need to redouble efforts to ensure that the Government of Iraq mandates and empowers a strong ministerial lead to implement the national action plan on resolution 1325 (2000) and the national strategy on the advancement of women. Advocacy with the Government on this matter has taken a back seat owing to the Government's focus on the Mosul operation.

- The recently signed joint communiqué with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict is a welcome step, but the Government's capacity to implement it is significantly limited. A Senior Women's Protection Adviser will be deployed in 2017, and UNAMI is already engaging with the central Government of Iraq and the regional government in Kurdistan, as well as with religious leaders, in particular on the issue of stigmatization, but additional support from the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and its Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict will be needed. A sharp increase in the number of sexual violence survivors is expected among women not only from minority communities, but from all communities in liberated areas. The focus of the joint communiqué is on a number of areas of work, the main ones being justice and accountability for sexual and gender-based crimes committed in Iraq and against Iraqi nationals in the Syrian Arab Republic, livelihood support for survivors, direct support for children born of rape and data collection and documentation in liberated areas, with emphasis placed on the protection of women in efforts to counter ISIL. The development of implementation plans and the appointment of high-level government focal points at the central and regional levels will be required.

- Delays in the adoption of the Family Protection Law and current issues with the existing draft legislation with regard to the protection of women and girls are affecting advocacy efforts to provide legal coverage for non-governmental organizations to operate shelters for women and girls in Iraq, whose existence is very precarious at the moment. There are some signs that the parliament may be open to introducing more favourable provisions in the current bill.

The Co-Chairs thanked their colleagues in Iraq for sharing detailed information on developments in the past six months and on the most urgent issues of concern regarding the current security and humanitarian situation, expressed the need for such rich analysis to be better integrated in the Mission's periodic reports and in briefings to the Security Council, and proposed keeping Iraq on the agenda of the Informal Expert Group, given the complexity of the situation and the critical nature of ongoing developments.

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Letter dated 22 December 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Spain and the United Kingdom, as Co-Chairs of the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, have the honour to transmit herewith a summary note of the meeting held on 7 December 2016 on women and peace and security in the Central African Republic (see annex).

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Román **Oyarzun**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Matthew **Rycroft**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
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16-23011 (E) 090117

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Annex to the letter dated 22 December 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security

Summary of the follow-up meeting on the Central African Republic, 7 December 2016

The meeting was attended by members of the Security Council and representatives of the United Nations Secretariat and agencies, funds and programmes. The main briefer was the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Deputy Head of Mission of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Diane Corner, accompanied by senior mission staff and heads of United Nations agencies.

MINUSCA provided updates on key developments since June. Close to 1,000 incidents of sexual and gender-based violence have been reported each month, and between June and December, 57 of those incidents were allegedly perpetrated by parties to the conflict. Armed actors continue to commit violence against women and girls accused of witchcraft, often with the goal of extorting money or controlling civilians in the territories under their control. In spite of the circular note issued in March by the Minister of Justice prohibiting the treatment of sexual crimes as a simple offence, widespread impunity and the frequent use of informal settlements in cases of sexual violence have continued. A recent positive example of the commitment of national partners is the establishment of a network of 10 mayors from Bangui and surrounding municipalities to raise the awareness of the population on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers and humanitarian workers. While the rapid intervention unit of the police is not yet operational, the 29 staff members in the unit (including 13 women) have been appointed by the respective ministries and have received training, and the renovation of the building that will host the unit began in October.

An assessment conducted by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), in partnership with MINUSCA, was presented in late November with the goal of developing targeted assistance for women and girls who participate in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and in community violence reduction and developing areas of focus for awareness-raising for all participants, including HIV prevention, female genital mutilation, early marriage and prevention of sexual violence. As at 28 November 2016, 712 women and girls had participated in pre-disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities in nine locations throughout the country, representing close to 17 per cent of the total participants in the programme; 35 per cent of participants or beneficiaries of community violence reduction activities must be women and girls.

Women's organizations insist on the disarmament of all armed groups across the country before the upcoming local elections. In the most recent round of elections, several women candidates were prevented from campaigning by armed groups often associated with rival candidates. Women currently hold 12 out of 140 seats in parliament and 4 out of 23 ministerial positions, and only one woman heads a large public entity, the National Election Authority. However, in November 2016, the National Assembly adopted a gender parity law providing a 35 per cent quota for women in decision-making bodies of public or private organizations. Although the law has to be promulgated by the President, support from the international community for the adequate implementation of the law will be crucial.

In October, the Government of the Central African Republic acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In the lead-up to the donor round table in Brussels in November, the United Nations supported consultations of more than 700 women leaders in the 16 prefectures and ensured that their views were represented in the donor conference.

In response to questions from Security Council members, participants from Bangui and New York added the following:

- **Gender balance and mission capacity with regard to gender and the protection of women**. MINUSCA has made progress in the consolidation of its protection function, and in addition to its three current women's protection advisers, there are three advisors and nine focal points in the Human Rights Division focused on conflict-related sexual violence, as well as a gender advisory unit. Women constitute 24 per cent of all civilian personnel, and there are 14 women and 49 men at the P-5 level and above. As at 26 September 2016, women represented 1.5 per cent of the military component and 9.5 per cent of the police component, the latter number reflecting an increase over the last few months.

- **Conflict-related sexual violence**. Continued insecurity has hampered the implementation of the previous commitments of the former Government to address conflict-related sexual violence. In addition to stigma, one of the causes of low reporting is the lack of services for survivors, including police protection and transportation to access the services; most services are provided by non-governmental or community-based organizations. MINUSCA will publish the mapping results of major human rights violations since 2003, which is in line with the mandate of the special criminal court, and which will include a section on conflict-related sexual violence.

- **Accusations of witchcraft and human rights violations**. MINUSCA is preparing a report on witchcraft and continues to advocate its removal from criminal statutes, but there is a widespread belief in witchcraft in the country, including among the judiciary.

The Secretariat recommended that the Informal Expert Group continue to keep the Central African Republic on its agenda, that women's participation and representation in decision-making be emphasized in future meetings of the Security Council and interactions with the Government and that the Informal Expert Group liaise with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning

the Central African Republic to ensure that its Panel of Experts continues to take allegations of conflict-related sexual violence or gross violations of women's rights into account when listing individuals and that it is provided with the necessary gender expertise. The Co-Chairs thanked the Mission and the country team for the quality of their briefing and requested that the information and analysis provided be better integrated into the periodic briefings and reports to the Security Council.

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Letter dated 22 December 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Spain and the United Kingdom, as Co-Chairs of the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, have the honour to transmit herewith the guidelines of the new mechanism, created pursuant to Security Council resolution 2242 (2015) (see annex).

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Román **Oyarzun**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Matthew **Rycroft**
Ambassador
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16-23012 (E) 090117

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Annex to the letter dated 22 December 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Guidelines for the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security

I. Purpose and scope

The purpose of these guidelines is to outline the objectives and working methods of the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security created pursuant to Security Council resolution 2242 (2015) and to provide general information about the mechanism. This includes the origins and mandate of the Group, its broader goal and specific aims, suggestions for a standardized structure and set of procedures, and the expected outcomes.

II. Background

In its review, the High-level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations concluded: "Despite annual debates on women and peace and security of the Security Council, there is inconsistent application of the agenda during the rest of the year, including during mandate formulation and renewal consultations, which is exacerbated by the lack of attention to those issues in briefings and reports to the Council by the Secretariat and senior mission leaders" (A/70/95-S/2015/446, para. 257 (h)).

That sentiment was echoed by the global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000),[1] in which the Security Council's performance on the issue was reviewed, with the conclusion that, in spite of the steady expansion of the women and peace and security agenda in its work throughout the years, the Council still remained largely inconsistent in its oversight of how its decisions on women and peace and security had been translated into action. It was recommended that an informal expert group on women and peace and security be established in the Council, with a view to improving the flow of information and analysis to the Council with respect to women and peace and security in country-specific situations and to sharpening the focus and specificity of Council deliberations, oversight and actions on women's participation and leadership, one of the central tenets that support conflict prevention and underpin long-term stability.

In his report on women and peace and security for 2015 (S/2015/716), the Secretary-General encouraged the Security Council to review this recommendation and to act on it without delay. On 13 October 2015, the Council adopted resolution 2242 (2015), in which it recognized the ongoing need for greater integration of resolution 1325 (2000) in its own work in alignment with resolution 2122 (2013), including the need to address challenges linked to the provision of specific

[1] The report on the global study is available at http://wps.unwomen.org. The review of the Security Council's performance is outlined in chapter 11.

information and recommendations on the gender dimensions of situations on the Council's agenda, to inform and help strengthen the Council's decisions, and therefore in addition to elements set out in resolution 2122 (2013), and in accordance with established practice and procedure: (a) expressed its intention to convene meetings of relevant Security Council experts as part of an informal expert group on women and peace and security to facilitate a more systematic approach to women and peace and security within its own work and enable greater oversight and coordination of implementation efforts.

The new mechanism was co-chaired during its first year by Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Group held meetings on issues pertaining to women and peace and security in Afghanistan (see S/2016/673), the Central African Republic (see S/2016/672), Iraq (see S/2016/683) and Mali (see S/2016/682) during the first part of the year and followed up with each country in the second part of the year (see S/2016/1059, S/2016/1105, S/2016/1104 and S/2016/1103, respectively).

III. Objectives

The defining principle of the Informal Expert Group is that better information and analysis, combined with direct interaction, leads to better oversight and stronger implementation of responsibilities pertaining to women and peace and security. It is intended to provide a space for transparent, regular, systematic and timely consultation between country experts and United Nations entities on concerns regarding women and peace and security in country-specific situations, in order to facilitate increased systematic attention to women and peace and security during formal Council deliberations and action on the ground. The increased flow of relevant information and analysis should enable greater oversight and better coordination of implementation efforts by the Council. The Informal Expert Group will also inform and help to strengthen the Council's efforts to mainstream the women and peace and security agenda in its daily work and will support the implementation of commitments outlined in resolutions 2122 (2013) and 2242 (2015) in relation to country-specific and thematic deliberations and decision-making in the Council.

IV. Structure

In 2016, the Informal Expert Group was co-chaired by Spain and the United Kingdom, the latter also being the pen holder for women and peace and security. In 2017, the Co-Chairs will be Sweden and Uruguay. From 2017 onwards, the pen holder will continue to provide overall leadership for the functioning of the group, alongside the Co-Chair(s). Whenever possible, the Co-Chairs should be geographically diverse and fulfil this role for the duration of their term on the Council.

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) will act as the secretariat of the Informal Expert Group. This requires preparing the information that Council members will receive, coordinating input from the various United Nations entities, both in the field and at Headquarters,

presenting recommendations to the Council, summarizing and proposing follow-up action after meetings and tracking the Group's impact. UN-Women will coordinate and consult with the United Nations Secretariat for countries on the agenda with a peacekeeping or special political mission, and with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict on all observations and recommendations related to conflict-related sexual violence, but will aim to consult broadly with all relevant United Nations entities working on human rights, humanitarian action, development and peace and security.

V. Agenda

At the beginning of each year, the Co-Chairs of the Informal Expert Group and the pen holder for women and peace and security should decide which country situations will be on the agenda of the Group. Based on good practice during the Group's first year of work, it is preferable to focus on four to six countries and to follow up periodically and as needed every six months, as long as there is scope for action and value added. The selection of countries can be guided by the following criteria: (a) strategic opportunity for impact by the Council; (b) the capacity of the United Nations system to generate relevant information and analysis; and (c) the diversity of country situations, both geographically and with regard to conflict phase, whether at risk, active or in transition and recovery.

For each meeting, the Co-Chairs will invite the senior leadership of the United Nations in the country in question to brief the Group and suggest parameters for the discussion. UN-Women will prepare the necessary background reading for Council members ahead of the meeting. Both the background notes and the briefings of mission and country team actors should provide information on women and peace and security that is relevant to the Council. This does not include reporting on all activities or interventions, unless they have helped to achieve a particular milestone or goal. Instead, the Council may be interested in focusing on some of the areas outlined below. Suggestions are included for how progress can be made in each.

- Available data and recent trends, whether positive or negative, on women's leadership and participation in decision-making entities involved in peace and security processes, such as Governments, parties to peace negotiations and bodies tasked with implementing peace agreements or recovery plans, and in key sectors such as justice and security.
- If there is a peacekeeping or special political mission, the current capacity of its expertise on gender and the protection of women, the current gender balance in its military, police and civilian components and the status of mechanisms for coordination between the country team and civil society.
- The short- to medium-term plans of the mission or other United Nations entity for advancing the women and peace and security agenda, and ongoing or planned measures to address any gaps or deficits in implementation.
- The genuine commitment of government actors to implementing national or international commitments relevant to women and peace and security, or conversely, examples of neglect or obstruction with respect to such implementation, and the role of other conflict parties with regard to the status of women in the country.

- If there is a national action plan on women and peace and security, a list of its most urgent and crucial commitments, whether they are being implemented, and if not, the reason for it.
- Protection trends that are directly related to the conflict and that affect women and girls disproportionately, such as conflict-related sexual violence, sexual exploitation and abuse and widespread sex trafficking; conflict-related killings and injuries, threats and attacks against women political leaders, women human rights defenders or women with similar profiles; abduction and forced marriage of women and girls; attacks on schoolgirls or destruction of school facilities; restrictions on women's rights by violence, stoning and so-called "honour killings"; election-related violence against women; arbitrary detention, intimidation and harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex people by parties to the conflict; and the increased risk and vulnerability experienced by women refugees, asylum seekers and returnees, stateless women and internally displaced women as a result of the lack of safety or services and the existence of discriminatory gender norms.
- Overall trends and data on how the conflict and the humanitarian situation are affecting women and girls on a range of indicators, from food security, health and education, to economic and political participation and the exercise of their rights.
- Where relevant, gender analysis of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, large-scale population displacement, transitional justice, violent extremism and efforts to counter it, and international accountability mechanisms and sanctions.
- Early-warning indicators of anticipated trends affecting peace and security, as highlighted by United Nations entities, women's civil society organizations or other in-country gender experts.

VI. Procedure

The steps outlined in the following table are not prescriptive, but are based on good practice observed during the first year of the Group's work:

Meeting preparation	The Co-Chairs request a briefing from the United Nations leadership by means of a signed letter from their ambassadors, preferably two to four weeks ahead of the meeting, suggesting potential dates. As soon as a date is determined, the Co-Chairs book a room and inform the Security Council members. UN-Women consults with the relevant United Nations entities at Headquarters and in the field, and civil society, to prepare the background reading and key recommendations, to be shared with Council members at least two business days ahead of the meeting, ensures the availability of videoconference and translation services, whenever needed, and invites colleagues from the United Nations Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes to join. The Co-Chairs inform the permanent mission of the country under discussion and, where possible, arrange a meeting.

Informal Expert Group meeting	The meetings are attended by relevant experts from Security Council member States (on the country under study and on women and peace and security) and from United Nations entities, by invitation of the Co-Chairs and secretariat of the Group. A diverse representation of mission and country team leadership is preferable for the briefings, including military and police. All meetings must include sufficient time for questions from Council members, following the briefing by United Nations entities. Representatives of United Nations entities from the field joining by videoconference or at Headquarters may be invited by the Co-Chairs to participate and answer questions, for which sufficient time needs to be allowed. Where necessary, written follow-up responses can also be provided afterwards. UN-Women provides an overview of the key recommendations presented to the Group and invites staff from the Office of the Special Representative and other relevant entities, for example those involved in human rights, to add their comments as needed. If not already articulated, the Co-Chairs will ask the United Nations entity briefer to identify a few concrete goals on which United Nations leadership can report back in subsequent meetings and in other communications with the Council, to ensure that outcomes are as action-orientated as possible.
Follow-up	The Co-Chairs inform the permanent mission of the country under consideration of what was discussed at the meeting. UN-Women prepares a summary of the meeting, and the Co-Chairs submit it for issuance as a document of the Security Council. All relevant documentation distributed at the meeting will be available on a public website. UN-Women follows up with United Nations colleagues in the field and at Headquarters on the information and recommendations from the meeting. Council members act on the recommendations; the Co-Chairs follow up on such actions. The Group will plan to convene a follow-up meeting, as necessary, approximately six months from the date of the previous meeting.

VII. Expected outcomes

The main goal of the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security is to improve the flow of information to the Security Council on women and peace and security issues and to ensure more consistent oversight of, and progress in, implementation efforts by Headquarters-based actors and field actors, respectively. The Co-Chairs, together with the pen holder, will take the initiative to drive this goal forward, although it remains a collective effort. It is intended that United Nations entities and Council members, both at the United Nations and on a

bilateral basis, use the information to guide their policies on women and peace and security and act on the information provided, in order to make a difference with respect to the situation on the ground. Below are some examples of actions that may be taken by Council members:

- Tailoring United Nations mission mandates to include specific and prioritized gender-related concerns most pertinent to the country under consideration.
- Encouraging more information and questions on women and peace and security during meetings of the Security Council: Council members can raise concerns pertaining to women and peace and security during country-specific or thematic briefings or when issues are brought up under the item "Any other business" in consultations. Council members can also support more regular briefings to the Council by the Executive Director of UN-Women, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and by representatives of women's civil society organizations, both in country-specific meetings of the Council and in Arria Formula meetings. In addition, Council members can directly address their questions to briefers, including senior mission leadership, on such concerns as the exclusion or marginalization of women and violations of women's rights in the context of conflict phases, and on details of the mission's plans to address those concerns.
- Fostering greater coherence with subsidiary bodies, including the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, and sanctions regimes.
- Ensuring, when the Council organizes visiting missions, that elements relevant to women and peace and security are included in the mission's terms of reference, that Council members' gender-specific messaging to government and mission leadership during the visit is improved, that the briefing pack prepared for the visit includes background materials and analysis on women and peace and security and that reporting and follow-up on field missions include relevant substantive elements. The Informal Expert Group may also consider a field visit at the expert level, which would focus exclusively on women and peace and security.
- Sending letters to or initiating a démarche with relevant actors: these actors could include, for example, the Government of the country under review or any other relevant decision maker that could have an impact on the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda in that country.
- Requesting additional information or assessments on a specific issue: further to the information shared in the briefing and the background note prepared for the Informal Expert Group meeting, the Group could request, within a given time frame, specific information from relevant actors, such as the mission, government actors or other United Nations entities, including other subsidiary bodies of the Security Council.
- Advocacy by members in their respective national capacity: Council members can use the information in the Group to advocate, either privately with the concerned parties or publicly, such as in media stake-outs, on particular issues related to women and peace and security.

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Spain and the United Kingdom, as Co-Chairs of the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, have the honour to transmit herewith a summary note of the special meeting held on 10 November 2016 with women's protection advisers focused on implementing the mandate to prevent sexual violence in conflict (see annex).

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Román **Oyarzun**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Matthew **Rycroft**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 22 December 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security

Meeting with women's protection advisers focused on implementing the mandate to prevent sexual violence in conflict, 10 November 2016

Summary

On the occasion of the annual workshop of women's protection advisers, held in New York from 7 to 11 November 2016, the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security met on 10 November for a discussion with women's protection advisers from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the sexual and gender-based violence focal point on the human rights team of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).

The Senior Women's Protection Adviser from UNMISS highlighted several opportunities for and challenges to combating conflict-related sexual violence in South Sudan. Opportunities for addressing conflict-related sexual violence included the joint communiqué signed by the Government of South Sudan and, on behalf of the United Nations, by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, in which the President committed to addressing conflict-related sexual violence, as well as the unilateral communiqué issued by the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition. An implementation plan with the Government had been developed, yet progress had been slow and the required funding was lacking. Furthermore, UNMISS had prepared a mission strategy to combat conflict-related sexual violence that included the following five pillars: (a) prevention; (b) monitoring and analysis; (c) mainstreaming conflict-related sexual violence; (d) capacity-building of national security forces, raising awareness among traditional leaders and training civil service organizations and the media; and (e) providing technical support for the Government to address conflict-related sexual violence. Other opportunities had arisen from the establishment of a technical working group on monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements in 2014 and an engagement with the United Kingdom to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to meet the needs of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, as well as ongoing work on action plans for the military and the police of South Sudan. The challenges to addressing conflict-related sexual violence in South Sudan included the ongoing fighting, a widespread lack of understanding of basic

human rights, compounded by denial and trivialization of sexual violence, weak institutions that failed to hold perpetrators accountable, and the limited services available for survivors.

The Senior Women's Protection Adviser from MINUSMA highlighted successes in addressing conflict-related sexual violence, such as ensuring that the peace agreements did not include amnesty for perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence. In June 2016, a unilateral communiqué to address conflict-related sexual violence was signed by la Plateforme, a coalition of armed groups. Moreover, the women's protection advisers established a network of focal points for conflict-related sexual violence in the United Nations country teams and MINUSMA, prepared a draft mainstreaming plan for the United Nations system on addressing conflict-related sexual violence and continued work on a joint project with UN-Women and the United Nations Population Fund to provide services to sexual violence survivors in Mali and to ensure access to security and justice. Priorities for women's protection advisers in MINUSMA going forward included: (a) continuing to engage with the Government, and with the coalition of armed groups known as la Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad in making concrete commitments to address conflict-related sexual violence; (b) supporting and monitoring the implementation of la Plateforme's one-year plan addressing conflict-related sexual violence; and (c) supporting the Truth, Reconciliation and Justice Commission through training on appropriately handling cases involving victims of conflict-related sexual violence. The women's protection advisers faced numerous challenges in carrying out their work, including attacks by jihadist groups on MINUSMA, weak State authorities in the north of the country and a persistent culture of impunity for conflict-related sexual violence. The Senior Women's Protection Adviser further noted inadequate budget and staffing as additional challenges and stressed the need to link the mandate to funding and resources.

The Senior Women's Protection Adviser from UNSOM reported a high level of conflict-related sexual violence and sexual and gender-based violence in Somalia in 2015. Thirty-seven per cent of survivors were internally displaced persons and 99 per cent were women. Allegations concerned the Somali National Army, the Somali Police Force and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Most of the perpetrators, however, were unidentified armed men. Impunity remained a main concern and the prevailing stigma of sexual violence led to severe underreporting. The availability and accessibility of services for survivors were a concern, since service provision continued to depend heavily on the contribution of civil society, despite increased efforts by the Government in that regard.

Opportunities for the Senior Women's Protection Adviser included: (a) the Government's willingness to address conflict-related sexual violence issues on the basis of the joint communiqué and related action plan; (b) working with AMISOM to address allegations of conflict-related sexual violence against AMISOM forces, on the basis of the human rights due diligence policy; and (c) improved monitoring and reporting through monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements. Some key challenges included the need to strengthen the capacity of the national Government to prioritize and implement the action plan to address conflict-related sexual violence, the need to establish referral pathways and strengthen civil society organizations and the justice system in Somalia, the limited resources of UNSOM to

implement the mandate to prevent sexual violence in conflict, the weak justice system in Somalia and the lack of accountability mechanisms with certain troop-contributing countries operating in Somalia.

In response to questions from Security Council members, women's protection advisers added the following points:

- **Integration of women's protection advisers into their missions**. The Senior Women's Protection Adviser from MINUSCA noted the utility of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements as a good mechanism for building a network within the mission. The technical working group on monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements was a catalyst for information-sharing and collaboration between mission components.

- **The importance of leveraging religious leaders in condemning sexual violence**. Religious leaders played an important role in addressing conflict-related sexual violence. In drafting a national action plan to address conflict-related sexual violence in Somalia, the Ministry of Religious Affairs contributed by taking a position, in the context of Islam, against rape and conflict-related sexual violence. The Somali Ministry of Religious Affairs and Ministry of Human Rights also held several activities on addressing conflict-related sexual violence.

- **Sharing information and best practices with other women's protection advisers**. Women's protection advisers in the neighbouring countries of Côte d'Ivoire and Mali were in regular direct contact with each other, a model of collaboration that other women's protection advisers could replicate. The women's protection advisers workshop was also identified as a key venue for sharing information.

- **Adequate resources for the implementation of the mandate to prevent sexual violence in conflict**. The senior women's protection advisers noted that the mandate gave them a solid basis upon which to operate, but confirmed that the lack of adequate resources was a challenge.

- **Differences between women's protection advisers and gender advisers**. Mention was made that women's protection advisers and gender advisers played distinct, yet complementary, roles. Women's protection advisers were key for ensuring the implementation of the mandate to prevent sexual violence in conflict. They addressed conflict-related sexual violence through the implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements, engaged with the parties to conflict to obtain specific commitments to address conflict-related sexual violence and supported parties to conflict in implementing those commitments. Women's protection advisers coordinated with the United Nations country team to respond to cases of conflict-related sexual violence and worked through various mission components on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform, justice and accountability issues. They collaborated with gender advisers to ensure that gender analysis informed the implementation of the mandate to prevent conflict-related sexual violence. Gender advisers counselled the mission on gender issues, ensured the integration of gender perspectives in policies, in planning and in reporting by all mission components, contributed to capacity-

building of national and local partners (civil society, Government) and coordinated with United Nations partners on global gender mainstreaming mechanisms.

- **Impact of the Informal Expert Group on women's protection advisers**. A positive impact had been noted for women's protection advisers in terms of leverage to engage with their mission's leadership in addressing conflict-related sexual violence.

The Co-Chairs ended the meeting by thanking the women's protection advisers for their efforts on the ground and for bringing the issues mentioned in the briefing to the attention of the experts and by reiterating their support for the work of the women's protection advisers and the implementation of the mandate to prevent sexual violence in conflict.

United Nations S/2016/1108

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 December 2016

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Letter dated 22 December 2016 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012) concerning Guinea-Bissau addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012) concerning Guinea-Bissau, containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2016. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Elbio **Rosselli**
Chair
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012)
concerning Guinea-Bissau

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Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012) concerning Guinea-Bissau

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012) concerning Guinea-Bissau covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Elbio Rosselli (Uruguay) as Chair and the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as Vice-Chair.

II. Background

3. By paragraph 4 of its resolution 2048 (2012), the Security Council imposed a travel ban on five designated individuals and, by paragraph 9, established a committee to oversee the implementation of the targeted measure. On 18 July 2012, the Committee approved the designation of six additional individuals.

4. Further background information on the Guinea-Bissau sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

5. The Committee met once in informal consultations, on 19 August, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

6. On 19 August, the Committee received a briefing by the Chief of the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch on the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made with regard to the stabilization and restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau (S/2016/720). The Acting Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Political Affairs in the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) also participated in the briefing from Bissau.

7. Following the informal consultations held on 19 August, and in accordance with paragraph 1 (c) of the note by the President of the Security Council: work of the subsidiary organs of the Security Council (S/2016/170), the Committee issued a press release containing a brief summary of the informal consultations.

8. On 30 August, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Uruguay, on behalf of the Chair, briefed the Security Council on the activities of the Committee, pursuant to paragraph 9 (d) of resolution 2048 (2012) (see S/PV.7764).

IV. Exemptions

9. Exemptions to the travel ban are contained in paragraph 5 of resolution 2048 (2012).

10. During the reporting period, the Committee did not receive any request for exemption.

V. Sanctions list

11. The criteria for the designation of individuals as subject to the travel ban are set out in paragraph 6 of resolution 2048 (2012). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the guidelines of the Committee for the conduct of its work.

12. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 11 individuals on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

13. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and the members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. Induction briefings were also provided to incoming members of the Council to familiarize them with the specific issues relevant to the sanctions regime.

14. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and the Committee-specific sanctions lists in the six official languages and the three technical formats. Furthermore, the Secretariat implemented improvements concerning the effective utilization of and access to sanctions lists, including through the establishment of a search function for names on sanctions lists, the creation of lists organized by permanent reference number, in addition to those in alphabetical order, and the addition of links to list entries, as appropriate, in INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices.

15. The Division undertook an assessment, facilitated by UNIOGBIS, to fulfil the request of the Security Council that the Secretary-General submit a report on the progress made by Guinea-Bissau with regard to the stabilization and restoration of constitutional order in the country. In this regard, the Chief of the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch briefed the Committee on 19 August.

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Security Council

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Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2296 (2016), by which the Council extended the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) until 30 June 2017 and requested me to report, every 90 days, on its implementation. The report provides an update on and analysis of the conflict, the political situation and the operational environment in Darfur, including the main challenges to the effective implementation of the mandate, from 28 September to 15 December 2016. It also presents the steps taken by UNAMID towards achieving its benchmarks and provides an update on the transfer of tasks to the United Nations country team and the development of an exit strategy for UNAMID.

II. Conflict dynamics and security situation

2. There was no major armed conflict in Darfur during the reporting period. Nevertheless, the situation remained volatile in the absence of progress towards a comprehensive agreement addressing the root causes of the violence. Hostilities involving the armed movements decreased as a result of the government military offensive, which limited the armed rebellion to a small part of the Jebel Marra, and the effect of the rainy season on the mobility of military forces. There were fewer intercommunal clashes than in previous years. The overall security situation was, however, affected by seasonal competition and unresolved disputes over land, water and resources, as well as by the proliferation of weapons and impunity, which continued to fuel intercommunal tensions and conflict. There were reports of criminal acts and human rights violations perpetrated by organized criminal groups and militias against civilians, including displaced persons, and a number of attacks against military and police forces.

Fighting between government forces and armed movements

3. In his address at the concluding session of the Conference of National Dialogue, held in Khartoum on 10 October, the President of the Sudan, Omar Hassan A. Al-Bashir, announced the extension of the Government's unilateral

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ceasefire in Darfur and the Two Areas. The announcement followed the Government's claim to have seized control of the Jebel Marra as part of its military offensive since the beginning of 2016 and of the conclusion of the Darfur conflict in September. As a consequence of the territorial losses suffered during the offensive, as well as internal fracturing, the armed rebellion in Darfur was limited to the presence of fighters from the Abdul Wahid faction of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA/AW) within a narrow area of territory inside the western Jebel Marra.

4. According to several reports, the SLA/AW presence was composed of small mobile groups of fighters operating east and south-west of Sarong, north-east of Nertiti, Central Darfur. The Government has described the SLA/AW operations in the area as an effort by the armed movement, and in particular its leader, Abdul Wahid al-Nour, to demonstrate continued political relevance amid military losses and internal fracturing rather than as viable military operations. While the SLA/AW leadership publicly denied any weakening of the armed movement, on 4 November, 222 of its members, led by a former commander in the Sarong area, signed a peace agreement with the government of Central Darfur in Koron, south of Golo. The agreement provided for security arrangements, power-sharing and a government commitment to providing developmental assistance to the area. On 21 November, members of the armed faction were reported to have reached Khartoum to sign the National Dialogue outcome document. Similarly, on 20 November, 16 persons claiming to be SLA/AW members from the Jebel Si area signed a peace agreement with the government of that state.

5. Its confinement to a limited area in the Jebel Marra notwithstanding, SLA/AW reportedly attacked the Sudanese military in Sarong on 19 November, injuring 16 soldiers. In response, on 4 December, the military reportedly fired artillery rounds at SLA/AW positions in the area east of Nertiti. UNAMID was unable to verify the reports or the impact of the fighting, owing to the continued denial of access to the area by the Government.

6. There have been no reports of fighting between the Government and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Minni Minawi faction of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA/MM) since April 2015 and April 2016, respectively. Following the President's announcement of a ceasefire, the two armed movements, as part of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front, announced their own six-month unilateral cessation of hostilities for humanitarian purposes on 30 October. On 25 November, after continued reports regarding the presence of armed movements from Darfur in South Sudan, the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, directed his country's security organs and armed forces to ensure that any rebel movements from the Sudan were removed and prevented from operating from South Sudan by the end of November.

7. On 29 September, Amnesty International published a report in which it alleged the use of chemical weapons against civilians by government forces, in addition to other violations of human rights and humanitarian law, as part of their offensive in the Jebel Marra since the beginning of 2016. The Government strongly rejected the allegations as having no merit, maintaining that it had no such weapons and that its industrial facilities, both military and civilian, remained open for investigation by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. In its initial statement, the Organization, which examined the allegations made in the report, indicated that,

without further information and evidence being made available, it was not possible at that stage to draw any conclusion in that regard. UNAMID has not come across any evidence regarding the use of chemical weapons in the Jebel Marra. At the same time, the mission has been denied unfettered access to the conflict areas. On 28 October, the administration of the Hasahisa camp for internally displaced persons submitted a petition in which the international community was called upon to dispatch an inspection team to probe the Government's chemical and other weapons.

Local conflicts and intercommunal violence

8. The past three months were characterized by several intercommunal clashes resulting from disputes over access to land and resources during the migration and farming seasons and cattle-rustling incidents that were significantly exacerbated by the inadequacy of rule of law and judicial institutions and the proliferation of weapons. In this environment, state governments, native administrations and traditional leaders maintained their efforts to prevent and respond to such occurrences through security measures, engagement with stakeholders and the facilitation of cessation of hostilities agreements and reconciliation processes.

9. In South Darfur, with the continuing migration and farming seasons, significant tensions were reported in Buram and Graida. On 9 October and 5 November, members of the Fallata and Salamat tribes clashed as a result of cattle-rustling in Wad Hagam and Nadhif, near Buram, resulting in 10 fatalities. In addition to the deployment of troops to these locations by the Government to prevent a further escalation of the fighting, a peace committee was established, comprising the native administrations of both communities and local authorities, in attempt to address their disputes over access to resources and ensure the implementation of the agreement that they signed in September 2015. On 9 November, clashes between Habbaniya, reportedly with support from Fallata, and Salamat nomads triggered by cattle theft in Merifin, south-west of Buram, left six Habbaniya and four Salamat tribespeople dead. The violence did not spread further following the deployment of additional government forces and the commitment by local leaders that the incidents in question would be treated as criminal acts.

10. In Graida, following the attempted rape of Masalit girls by armed Rizeigat tribespeople in Um Sharanah, clashes between the two groups on 8 November left four Rizeigat and two Masalit tribespeople dead. The paramount chief of the Rizeigat visited the area from Ed Daein to defuse tensions and prevent the further mobilization of his community, while local authorities engaged with the Masalit for the same purpose. Nonetheless, on 16 November, Masalit farmers killed two Rizeigat nomads who allegedly grazed their cattle on their farm in Dimasoya, south of Graida. On 17 and 18 November, Rizeigat retaliatory attacks in Joghana and Dimasoya resulted in the further killing of 21 Rizeigat and 10 Masalit tribespeople, bringing the total number of fatalities to 27 Rizeigat and 12 Masalit tribespeople. Following a meeting of local authorities and native administrations on the same day, it was agreed that all Rizeigat herders would leave the locality until the end of the farming season in mid-January 2017 and that a reconciliation meeting would be held in December 2016.

11. In West Darfur, an outstanding dispute over compensation for killings in previous cattle-rustling incidents resulted in clashes between Zaghawa tribespeople

and the Awlad Zaid subclan of the Northern Rizeigat in Kulbus, on the Sudanese border with Chad, on 30 and 31 October and led to 16 fatalities and abductions on both sides. The Governor of West Darfur and joint Sudanese-Chadian forces responded swiftly to halt the violence. On 13 November, together with the local Chadian authorities, they facilitated a reconciliation conference between the two groups in which the parties agreed to exchange abductees. Fighting nevertheless resumed on 25 November, when Awlad Zaid tribespeople attacked Zaghawa tribespeople near Birak, across the border in Chad, resulting in four fatalities, including a Chadian soldier. Amid calls for revenge and reports of mobilization by the communities, the situation in the Jebel Moon area remains tense.

12. With regard to intercommunal fighting in East Darfur, the government-organized separate talks with the Southern Rizeigat and Ma'aliya tribespeople in Khartoum from 4 to 6 October resulted in no further progress in resolving their dispute over land and resources in Adilla and Abu Karinka. Accordingly, tensions remained high. On 14 and 15 October, two Ma'aliya tribespeople were killed following a series of cattle-rustling incidents in Abu Karinka. A further escalation was prevented thanks to the expedient intervention of the state government and the leaders of the two communities, which resulted in an agreement on compensation on 17 October.

13. In North Darfur, tensions continued between internally displaced Fur and Northern Rizeigat tribespeople in Sortony in the aftermath of Northern Rizeigat attacks on internally displaced persons, including at the gathering site for such persons, in May and amid accusations of cattle-rustling and destruction of crops by the Fur, including SLA/AW elements. On 27 October, local nomad leaders prevented internally displaced persons from having access to the water point in the area. The blockade was lifted on 13 November following engagement by UNAMID with local leaders in Kabkabiyah and Sortony. The nomads continue to block commercial traffic along the Kabkabiyah-Sortony road. The government-led reconciliation process organized through the Kabkabiyah harvest prevention and conflict management committee is yet to reach a successful conclusion.

Violence against internally displaced persons

14. Internally displaced persons were a target in 201 crimes that led to 26 fatalities. They attributed most of the crimes to government security personnel or pro-government militias. The most affected areas were Kutum, Kabkabiyah, Korma, Shangil Tobaya, Tawilah and Sortony in North Darfur, El Geneina, Kuraynik and Murnei in West Darfur and Zalingei, Nertiti and Thur in Central Darfur. In October, the security situation in the vicinity of the Sisi camp for internally displaced persons, west of El Geneina in West Darfur, deteriorated significantly, with reports of the presence of armed Arab militias and attacks on internally displaced Masalit farmers, including women. On 18 October, the Governor of West Darfur and local leaders facilitated an agreement between the Masalit and Tama communities and committed themselves to ensuring that the perpetrators of criminal acts would be brought to justice. Also in October, a series of attacks by camel herders in the area of Thur, Central Darfur, resulted in the displacement of some 200 people to Nertiti, Kass and Nyala, South Darfur. On 19 November, many Mahariya militiamen in vehicles mounted with guns entered the Kassab camp for internally displaced persons, north-east of Kutum, North Darfur, causing widespread panic. A few days

earlier, Mahariya tribespeople had blocked the road from Kutum to El Fasher in protest at the arrest of their leader by the National Intelligence and Security Service earlier in November.

15. The personal security of displaced communities was further affected by an increase in arbitrary arrests and illegal detentions, especially in South and West Darfur. On 19 and 20 October, for example, at least six internally displaced leaders were arrested on charges of organizing a demonstration in El Geneina, West Darfur, the previous day. On 18 October, in Kario, west of Ed Daein, East Darfur, the police used disproportionate force while searching the refugee camp, arresting 11 South Sudanese in the process and charging them with various offences, including resisting arrest and brewing alcohol. Eight of them were sentenced in a swift trial and remanded in custody at the Ed Daein state prison. On 1 October, four of the remaining seven individuals arrested at camps for internally displaced persons in Central Darfur after a meeting with the United States Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan on 31 July were released from the custody of the National Intelligence and Security Service, while the remaining three have been transferred from Zalingei to Khartoum.

Crime and banditry

16. A total of 659 criminal incidents and 122 fatalities were recorded, compared with 570 incidents and 110 fatalities during the previous reporting period. Those comprised assault/harassment (206 cases), shooting (149 cases), murder (86 cases), armed robbery (49 cases), burglary/break-ins (41 cases), livestock theft (43 cases), abduction (31 cases), attempted robbery (16 cases), threats of violence (14 cases), attack/ambush (8 cases), looting (4 cases), arson (2 cases) and other incidents (10 cases).

17. The reporting period also witnessed several attacks on soldiers and police officers by organized armed groups and militias. For example, a joint military and police force deployed to verify reports of crop destruction clashed with Arab herders in Um Tearent, north of Shangil Tobaya, North Darfur, on 15 November, leaving a soldier and a herder dead. On 17 November, an armed group attacked a police checkpoint along the El Fasher-Khartoum road in the village of Kathkara, east of El Fasher, killing three officers and injuring two others and seizing assault rifles and machine guns.

III. Political developments

Darfur peace process

18. Since the signing in August by JEM and SLA/MM of the road map agreement sponsored by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, no tangible progress has been made in the Darfur peace process following persistent disagreements among the parties on modalities for the cessation of hostilities and humanitarian access. The Panel and UNAMID continued their engagement with the parties in an attempt to bridge the differences, in particular over the future role of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur in the negotiations and the modalities for the disclosure of JEM and SLA/MM locations in Darfur.

19. At the request of JEM and SLA/MM and with the endorsement of the President of the Sudan, the President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, has been facilitating the Darfur negotiations since May. Meetings with the leadership of JEM and SLA/MM in Kampala on 19 October served as a platform for informal discussions. The President of Chad, Idriss Deby Itno, also remained involved in efforts to resolve the Darfur crisis and met the leadership of JEM and SLA/AW in Berlin on 12 October, reportedly urging them to join the National Dialogue process in Khartoum, which had been concluded two days previously.

20. Besides the lack of progress in the peace process, the reporting period was marked by reports of divisions within the armed movements. In addition to the above-mentioned split within SLA/AW, the Chair of JEM, Gibril Ibrahim, relieved the secretary of the Movement, Abu Bakr Hamid, from his position on 1 December. According to media sources, Hamid, who has good personal relations with the President of Chad, was reportedly more responsive to the latter's efforts to persuade JEM to join the National Dialogue. On 3 December, further to the commitment made when declaring its unilateral cessation of hostilities, JEM released 22 Sudanese military prisoners and the four remaining commanders of JEM/Sudan who were in its custody.

National Dialogue process

21. On 10 October, the General Assembly of the National Dialogue, in which 79 political parties and 28 armed movements participated, adopted an outcome document containing 981 recommendations developed by six committees. It outlined a federal and presidential system of government, a two-chamber parliament, with one chamber for deputies and the other for the Council of States, and the separation of the three branches of government. It endorsed principles of democracy and underlined the concept of equal citizenship and the diverse Sudanese identity. On 26 October, the Dialogue secretariat presented the document to the National Assembly as the basis for the drafting of a new permanent constitution within three months. On 5 December, the Higher Coordination Committee of the Dialogue was dissolved and a new committee established to follow up on the implementation of the document.

22. The Government and some countries in the region hailed the National Dialogue as a success. Opposition groups, however, were critical, arguing that the outcome document, in addition to the President's address at the closing session, on 10 October, while reasserting the broad principles of good governance and unity, remained vague and non-committal on key issues such as the permanent constitution, political rights, the role of the security services and implementation measures. In addition, the Sudan Call coalition maintained that the Dialogue was not an inclusive and consensual process as agreed upon in the road map agreement and that its conclusions could only form the basis for a new, broader process that it would be ready to join under certain conditions.

23. Following the Government's decision, on 3 November, to cut fuel and electricity subsidies in order to prevent inflation, small protests erupted in Khartoum, El Fasher, Nyala and several other locations. The authorities arrested 21 members of opposition parties, including the Chair of the National Congress Party, accused of inciting the overthrow of the regime. On 25 November, political

activists called for mass civil disobedience from 27 to 29 November. Protests, mainly led by students, were reported in Khartoum, Omdurman, El Fasher and several other locations, as were arrests by the security services. Personnel from the National Intelligence and Security Service also reportedly shut down media outlets critical of the austerity measures.

IV. Humanitarian situation

24. In 2016, humanitarian partners have verified some 97,000 newly displaced persons (53,000 in North Darfur, 29,000 in South Darfur and 15,000 in Central Darfur), primarily as a result of the fighting in the Jebel Marra, while up to an additional 88,000 reported people have not been verified owing to a lack of access to the relevant locations. While the internally displaced received basic humanitarian assistance, gaps were identified in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene, protection and livelihoods in some locations in North and South Darfur.

25. In North Darfur, 17 new arrivals from Golo were registered during the reporting period, while no new arrivals were reported in South Darfur. Displacement figures have been verified in all known areas of displacement in South Darfur, except in Deribat where humanitarian access to some 800 people continued to be denied by the Government. In Central Darfur, some 5,000 internally displaced persons were verified in the town of Zalingei and 10,500 in Guldo. Some 30,000 individuals reportedly returned, including 25,000 in Golo. There are unverified reports that more than 41,000 people are displaced or affected in Nertiti, Rockero, Thur, Daya and Fanga Suk, while an additional 45,000 people are reportedly displaced in the Buri and Wadi Buri area.

V. Operating environment

Attacks and restrictions of movement on and denials of access to the mission

26. United Nations personnel and property were targeted in 31 criminal incidents, comprising 2 abductions, 4 armed robberies, 8 break-ins and thefts, 2 cases of trespassing, 10 stone-throwing incidents, 1 case of a threat to a staff member, 2 cases of shooting/intimidation and 2 cases of hostile surveillance, compared with 19 incidents during the previous reporting period. On 24 November, armed men abducted four national staff along the road to the mission's supercamp in Nyala and released them later the same day, without their belongings, in Duma, 45 km north-west of the town. A day earlier, the National Intelligence and Security Service arrested a UNAMID national staff member in Nyala for an alleged security violation. UNAMID is engaging with the Service regarding the person's status.

27. As at 15 December, UNAMID had experienced 67 access denials or restrictions on its ground patrols imposed by the Government and internally displaced young people in Darfur. While the mission's access to previously reported conflict areas inside the Jebel Marra continued to be denied, similar restrictions were placed on its patrols in the aftermath of intercommunal violence in Graida, South Darfur, and Foro Burunga, West Darfur, respectively, on 26 and 27 November. From 3 to 6 November, the government of West Darfur restricted the

mission's flights and ground movement to and from its camp in El Geneina, a move that had a severe impact on its operations and the safety and security of its personnel. UNAMID experienced 29 flight clearance denials, 26 of which occurred in the above-mentioned incident in El Geneina. The Sudanese authorities also imposed additional restrictions on the mission's flights in the form of non-approval of direct flights between team sites in different sectors and limiting the window for air operations.

Access denials and restrictions imposed on humanitarian actors

28. Insecurity continued to have an impact on humanitarian activities in Darfur. On 28 September, SLA/AW elements abducted two humanitarian workers in Sortony, North Darfur, accusing them of spying for the Government, before releasing them the same day. On 18 October, a police raid in the newly established Kario refugee camp in East Darfur was conducted without notifying humanitarian actors beforehand. Both incidents resulted in the temporary disruption of humanitarian activities. In North Darfur, intercommunal tensions in Sortony caused the continued blocking of the road to Kabkabiyah, hindering the free movement of internally displaced persons and commercial traffic and affecting water, sanitation and hygiene services, in November.

29. Humanitarian actors also continued to face bureaucratic impediments in the form of delays and rejections of intra-state travel permits, in particular for areas in which internally displaced persons affected by the conflict in the Jebel Marra reportedly settled. Cross-line access remained impossible, rendering some areas in the central and western Jebel Marra inaccessible, while access in other areas of the Jebel Marra remained challenging. Of 21 requests for inter-agency assessments in Deribat, Golo, Neriti, Thur, Guldo and Buri and Wadi Buri (Central and South Darfur), 3 were denied and 14 remain pending. Some single-agency requests were granted, but not for all sectors, with protection activities, for example, encountering challenges. Missions in these areas often involved heavy government monitoring. Furthermore, the inconsistent application of procedures between states in Darfur, and between the state and the federal levels, also had an impact on humanitarian operations. A request for an inter-agency mission to Lait, North Darfur, where between 5,000 and 11,000 refugees have reportedly settled, has been pending since July.

Visas and customs clearances

30. The Government granted 557 visas for UNAMID, of which 330 were for military and police personnel and 23 for international staff. Of these, the Government granted a visa request for a human rights officer, which was the first granted for the Human Rights Section in a year. As at 8 December, 117 visa requests submitted since January remained pending, of which 30 were for civilian staff. The vacancy rate decreased in the Human Rights Section (46 per cent), the Joint Operations Centre (15 per cent), the Communications and Public Information Division (12 per cent) and the Protection of Civilians Section (11 per cent), while increasing in the Security and Safety Section (16 per cent).

31. The Government cleared all the pending 182 food rations shipments, which are being transported to the mission area. Customs clearance for 251 shipments of

United Nations-owned equipment and contingent-owned equipment, however, remain pending at Port Sudan and in Khartoum. Equipment for the Chinese military utility helicopter unit has been pending clearance by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 10 October, while the ship carrying it has been docked at Port Sudan since 6 November and is accruing demurrage charges. Other shipments include communications equipment, vehicles, printers and waste management systems, some of which have been pending for almost a year. The resulting equipment shortages continue to affect the ability of the troops and formed police units to communicate, conduct patrols and protect civilians. That the Government has also yet to grant UNAMID the certificate of exemption from taxation for goods imported by sea for 2016 has resulted in complications and delays in the release of shipments from ports. The request for 2017 has been submitted but remains pending. Furthermore, UNAMID has asked the Government to grant it an exemption from the newly imposed restrictions on the importation of vehicles that are more than a year old and is awaiting a response.

VI. Mandate implementation

A. Support for an inclusive peace process

High-level mediation

32. During the reporting period, several rounds of informal talks and meetings were conducted with a view to bridging the gap between the positions of the Government and opposition groups, including the rebel movements, on the way forward in the political process. On 1 October, the African Union High-level Implementation Panel facilitated a workshop of the Sudan Call coalition in Addis Ababa to discuss the modalities of its participation in the National Dialogue. The coalition agreed that a preparatory meeting between its representatives and the Government should be held in Addis Ababa after the signing of agreements on the cessation of hostilities and humanitarian access in Darfur and the Two Areas.

33. From 30 September to 2 October, the African Union High-level Implementation Panel organized a round of informal consultations in Addis Ababa between the Government and the opposition, during which it encouraged both sides to adjust their approaches in order to maintain the momentum resulting from the signing of the road map agreement. In an effort to break the deadlock on the issue of armed movement locations, UNAMID facilitated a meeting between experts of the Sudanese military, JEM and SLA/MM, also attended by representatives of the Panel and the Office of the United States Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, in Addis Ababa from 27 to 29 November. The parties were, however, unable to agree on the sequencing of the disclosure process. Throughout October and November, envoys from the troika countries (Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America) also held meetings with representatives of the Government and armed movements to discuss the way forward in the peace talks.

Implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur

34. Following the formal dissolution of the Darfur Regional Authority in September, during the reporting period the Government appointed an interim secretary-general to coordinate the work of the remaining institutions established under the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur: the Darfur Land Commission, the Voluntary Return and Resettlement Commission, the Justice, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Darfur Security Arrangements Implementation Commission and the Darfur Reconstruction and Development Fund. The Government is expected to establish a successor body to the Authority under the Ministry of Presidential Affairs in the near future. The Government has also indicated to UNAMID that it will retain the Darfur Social Welfare Fund, which was created through the protocol that it signed with the JEM faction led by Mohamed Bashar, and that an additional body to succeed the Darfur Peace Follow-up Office will be established to provide the necessary political support in this context.

35. UNAMID is engaging with the Government to define the modalities for the mission's continued support for the implementation of the outstanding provisions of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, many of which remain crucial to addressing the root causes and main consequences of the conflict. Some of the key outstanding provisions include long-term tasks relating to the settlement of nomads, improving relations between farmers and nomads, the reform of land legislation, compensation and the return of internally displaced persons and refugees, enabling the work of justice and reconciliation institutions, arms control and civilian disarmament. Besides operational and political challenges, unfulfilled pledges by international donors and the Government have been a key reason for their non-implementation.

36. Given the serious funding constraints, the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation process, which was originally envisaged to be conducted within 120 days of the signing of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, has been significantly delayed. As at 15 December, 20 of the 26 planned locality consultations in the second of four phases of the process had been completed. Participants discussed the root causes of the conflict, including issues relating to insecurity, the proliferation of arms, land management, development and the economy, governance, the strengthening of government authority and the empowerment of the native administration, civilian displacement and voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees, and reconciliation. To date, funding in the amount of $2.7 million and €800,000 has been received from the Governments of the Sudan and Qatar and from the European Union, while an estimated $1.4 million remains outstanding to complete the process.

37. On 4 October, in collaboration with the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, UNAMID concluded the demobilization of 780 ex-combatants from the Liberation and Justice Movement, JEM/Peace Wing, Sudan Liberation Army/Mustafa Terab, Sudan Liberation Army/Mother Wing, Sudan Liberation Army/Free Will, Sudan Liberation Army/Historical Leadership and Popular Forces for the Restoration of Democracy caseload in Central Darfur. On 29 November, the mission began the demobilization of 700 ex-combatants in

El Daein, East Darfur. It also continued the community-based reintegration of 700 ex-combatants that it had demobilized in North and West Darfur.

B. Protection of civilians

38. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2296 (2016), UNAMID continued to focus its activities on protecting internally displaced persons and addressing intercommunal violence. In this context, in coordination with the United Nations country team, it mapped the protection situation in 174 locations hosting internally displaced persons, including camps, gathering sites and communities. The exercise measured approximate numbers of internally displaced persons, the main protection issues, response capacities and risk levels. The findings pointed to a need to tailor protection activities to specific challenges facing civilians at the local level, as well as the vulnerability of internally displaced persons in relation to livelihood activities, hence touching upon intercommunal dynamics. UNAMID and the country team are identifying additional mitigation measures to resolve these concerns, together with mechanisms to explore and support the voluntary and sustainable return process in this context.

Provision of physical protection

39. UNAMID continued to provide physical protection through military and police patrols to prevent, deter and respond to situations in which civilians are under threat of physical violence, especially in areas of large displacement. The mission conducted day and night patrols inside and outside camps and gathering sites for internally displaced persons, with a focus on those adjacent to its team sites. It also contributed to the prevention of intercommunal conflict through regular engagement with local communities, using early warning networks on protection and security issues, military and police field monitoring and assessment missions and targeted patrols.

40. In Sortony and Tawilah, areas with considerable displacement as a result of the fighting between government and SLA/AW forces during the first half of 2016, the mission provided around-the-clock protection to the displaced, while the protection situation in other camps for internally displaced persons was monitored through regular patrols. On 28 September, a UNAMID patrol for the Sortony team site successfully secured the release of a civilian detained by members of SLA/AW. On 15 November, the mission's troops prevented some 20 armed militiamen from entering the gathering site for internally displaced persons in Sortony in search of stolen camels.

41. In total, UNAMID conducted 20,369 military patrols, including 7,318 routine, 8,933 short-range, 402 long-range and 2,389 night patrols, in addition to 392 humanitarian and 876 logistical and administrative escorts, visiting villages 6,300 times and camps and gathering sites for internally displaced persons 2,497 times. Its police personnel conducted 5,779 patrols, compared with 5,051 patrols in the same period in 2015, comprising 3,027 confidence-building patrols to camps for internally displaced persons and 2,752 patrols to protect women and children engaged in livelihood activities outside the camps. The increase can be attributed to enhanced human resources in terms of individual police officers, coupled with

better coordination with their military counterparts. The patrols continued to maintain a secure and stable environment and deter violence against civilians.

Logistical and security support to humanitarian operations

42. As at 30 November, UNAMID had provided 248 round-trip escorts for humanitarian partners in support of the delivery of humanitarian assistance and monitoring of the humanitarian and protection situation, most of which in Central and South Darfur. The escorts were provided for, among other things, food distribution among conflict-affected people in the Jebel Marra (Golo, Guldo and Rockero) and for needs assessment missions to the Jebel Marra by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Promoting a protective environment

43. As part of its efforts to promote a protective environment in Darfur, UNAMID continued to monitor, report on and advocate the prevention of human rights violations and abuses, conflict-related sexual violence, sexual and gender-based violence and violations against children, as well as the reduction of the risk posed to civilians by explosive remnants of war. The mission also provided technical expertise to strengthen the capacity of penal and judicial institutions, including through the training of police, corrections and judicial officers and community policing volunteers.

44. A total of 544 criminal cases were reported to the UNAMID police component, compared with 448 in the same period in 2015. This resulted in 63 arrests by the country's police force in 2016, compared with 91 in 2015. To improve access to justice and the rule of law in Darfur, UNAMID police officers carried out capacity-building training for 415 Sudanese police officers, giving courses on detention and suspect treatment, explosive remnants of war, small arms and light weapons, community policing, public order management, basic criminal investigation and human rights, while also training community policing volunteers. Such initiatives have strengthened the relationship between UNAMID and Sudanese police officers.

45. As part of crime prevention efforts in camps for internally displaced persons, 542 community policing volunteers participated in 209 joint patrols. UNAMID also held 392 awareness-raising sessions for internally displaced persons on issues relating to crime and safety, in addition to conducting seven training workshops for 257 internally displaced persons and volunteers on community policing, road safety, human rights and peer counselling. UNAMID visited police stations and detention centres to monitor the conditions of children in juvenile detention centres, including those living with their mothers, on 1,538 occasions. The mission also conducted 16 workshops for 724 internally displaced persons and 13 workshops for government police officers on gender mainstreaming, gender equality, sexual exploitation and abuse. A total of 3,137 internally displaced persons and 225 police officers throughout Darfur benefited from English classes, improving interaction between UNAMID police officers and the displaced in sharing information and reporting on the security situation and sexual and gender-based violence.

46. In September, the mission completed the refurbishment of a women's wing at Shallah prison in El Fasher through a quick-impact project. In October, six inmates

from the prison graduated from the first vocational skills training programme supported by UNAMID, while similar programmes are continuing in El Geneina and Nyala. In November, UNAMID conducted six training workshops for 180 Sudanese prison officers, including 50 women, on management and operations. Further to the mission's advocacy, the authorities authorized the establishment of new courts in Masteri and Kuraynik, West Darfur, areas characterized by the absence of formal rule of law institutions and recent incidents of intercommunal conflict.

47. UNAMID documented 106 new incidents of human rights violations and abuses involving 214 victims (including 7 children), compared with 117 incidents involving 303 victims in the previous reporting period. Violations of the right to life accounted for 29 cases involving 47 victims (1 of whom was a child), the right to physical integrity for 39 cases involving 71 victims and sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence in the form of rape, for 21 cases involving 33 victims (4 of whom were children). In addition, eight cases of arbitrary arrest and illegal detention involving 23 victims were documented. There were eight abductions involving 27 victims. One case involving 13 victims pertained to intercommunal clashes between Zaghawa and Awlad Zaid tribespeople in West Darfur. UNAMID confirmed 59 cases of human rights violations and abuses involving 111 victims, while the remaining 47 cases involving 103 victims could not be verified owing to access restrictions imposed by the Government. Of the 106 incidents reported, 18 cases involving 43 victims were reported as having been perpetrated by government security forces and allied groups. The remaining 88 cases with 171 victims were allegedly perpetrated by unidentified armed men, often described by the victims as Arabs. In their interaction with UNAMID, victims, including internally displaced persons, highlighted the lack of police action in initiating investigations and apprehending alleged perpetrators. Social stigma and low rates of reporting continued to hinder access to justice, forcing many victims of sexual violence to resort to traditional settlement mechanisms, which often accord priority to maintaining social cohesion over promoting criminal accountability.

48. UNAMID also documented allegations of grave violations against children, including 21 cases of killing and maiming by gunshots and items of unexploded ordnance, 8 cases of rape of girls, 2 cases of abduction, 3 cases of recruitment and use of children and 3 cases of attacks on schools and hospitals. In North Darfur, UNAMID noted with concern the detention of 15 children for offences relating to theft and truancy since October by police in El Fasher. On 20 October, a general criminal court in El Geneina, West Darfur, convicted two juvenile offenders, of 17 and 16 years of age, of murder and sentenced them to five-year reformatory sentences in the absence of social workers, which constituted a violation of the Child Act of 2010.

49. In collaboration with UNICEF, UNAMID continued to support the Government to implement the action plan to end the recruitment and use of children in government forces signed in March. On 21 September, following United Nations engagement, the Government issued a presidential pardon to and released 21 children whom it claimed had been captured in clashes with JEM in 2015. They were handed over to UNICEF and the National Council for Child Welfare in Khartoum, where they were provided with reintegration, family tracing and, in cooperation with UNAMID, reunification support. In Geneva on 22 and

23 November, UNAMID and UNICEF discussed further steps with JEM and SLA/MM to fulfil the commitments made in their earlier agreements with the United Nations on ending and preventing the recruitment and use of children in their forces. During the reporting period, UNAMID conducted training on child protection and the rights of the child for national institutions and local communities, benefiting 839 participants (368 women and 471 men), of whom 68 were police officers, 32 military personnel and 739 internally displaced persons and community leaders. Incidents of sexual and gender-based violence, largely in the form of rape and attempted rape, continued to be reported, with correspondingly weak remedial mechanisms at the national level. UNAMID continued to encourage victims to report cases and to monitor the progress of cases in progress to ensure that human rights standards were observed.

50. Explosive ordnance remained a security threat to civilians, killing three children and severely injuring five children and a woman during the reporting period. In total, 286 items of unexploded ordnance were located and destroyed, while 21,992 beneficiaries, members of the local population in risk areas, received ordnance risk education. In partnership with the National Mine Action Centre, the mission conducted training for three national clearance teams on the disposal of unexploded ordnance. To support the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, UNAMID constructed six workshops and provided equipment for vocational training for victims of explosive remnants of war in all the states of Darfur, for the benefit of 350 registered persons with disabilities.

C. Local conflict mediation

51. Further to Security Council resolution 2296 (2016), UNAMID continued to roll out the mission-wide strategy to tackle intercommunal violence. Internal and external mechanisms for coordination with, respectively, the United Nations country team and state governments have been established in all states, with the exception of East Darfur where discussions are continuing with the state government and native administratio . The governors of the remaining four states have expressed their commitment to leading the coordination efforts and to collaborating with the mission and the country team on developing state-level action plans with defined priority areas. As part of the development of such plans, UNAMID is reviewing stalled peace processes and agreements and engaging with the state governments on how to support them.

52. As part of its efforts to prevent conflict during the continuing migration and farming seasons, UNAMID engaged with stakeholders in Darfur and Khartoum, including native administrations, committees for peaceful coexistence and agriculture, farmers and nomads, local authorities and community leaders on the need to ensure peace and security through dialogue. While both nomadic and farming communities maintained that the mission-facilitated dialogue forums and peacebuilding workshops contributed to improving relations between them, they also noted that the presence of armed nomads around farming areas and the lack of capacity of local conflict resolution mechanisms remained key issues of concern.

53. UNAMID supported reconciliation efforts and peace processes by facilitating dialogue, calling for the effective engagement of government and community

leaders and conducting confidence-building missions to areas of intercommunal conflict. In the aftermath of clashes in Graida, South Darfur, in November, UNAMID conducted integrated team field visits to the area to promote reconciliation between Masalit, Fallata and Rizeigat communities. In East Darfur and Khartoum, UNAMID continued to engage with both governmental and Ma'aliya and Southern Rizeigat leaders in support of the government reconciliation process. In November, in collaboration with local youth groups, the mission facilitated peacebuilding forums in Abu Jabrah and Yasin with the participation of community, women's and youth groups, during which participants reinforced their commitment to peace and reconciliation. On 7 December, UNAMID discussed the status of reconciliation efforts with the Vice-President, Hassabo Abdulrahman, in Ed Daein, along with the Governor of East Darfur, the National Intelligence and Security Service, tribal leaders and other community representatives.

54. In South Darfur, UNAMID conducted two assessment missions to monitor the implementation of the Shataya peace agreement, signed between the Beni Halba, Dajo, Fur, Khuzam, Misseriya and Zaghawa tribes in August, which defined land rights and encouraged returns, peaceful coexistence and the observance of the rule of law. Community leaders reported an improved security situation following the deployment of additional military and police personnel to the area, while the state government noted its financial support aimed at promoting voluntary returns, the return of land to its original owners and the rehabilitation of basic infrastructure in the area.

VII. Transfer of mandated tasks to the United Nations country team and exit strategy

A. Transfer of mandated tasks to and cooperation with the United Nations country team

55. In accordance with Security Council resolutions 2228 (2015) and 2296 (2016), UNAMID has made progress in the gradual transfer of tasks to the United Nations country team, which has a comparative advantage. On 22 November, a joint rule of law programme for Darfur for the period 2016-2019 was adopted, with senior government officials and representatives of UNAMID and the country team attending the signing ceremony in Khartoum. On that basis, a memorandum of understanding between UNAMID and the United Nations Development Programme is being finalized to complete the handover of tasks relating to legal aid by July 2017. Furthermore, the mission continued to hold monthly meetings to consolidate a strategy for joint planning, implementation and information-sharing concerning the women and peace and security agenda. The limited coverage of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in most of North Darfur, the absence of the United Nations Population Fund in Central, East and West Darfur and current budget reductions affecting United Nations agencies, funds and programmes are posing a major challenge.

56. After the completion of the semi-annual report on the implementation of the integrated strategic framework for the period January-June 2016, a new joint task force of the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNAMID was

established to develop the next integrated strategic framework by June 2017. This will coincide with the preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the humanitarian response plan for the Sudan by the United Nations country team and its partners, thereby ensuring the complementarity of these planning processes.

B. Exit strategy

57. Further to Security Council resolution 2296 (2016) and the communiqué of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union of 13 June, the United Nations and the African Union continued discussions with the Government on the implementation of the UNAMID benchmarks and on the exit strategy within the framework of the joint working group. The group met in Khartoum from 17 to 20 October to discuss the status of implementation of the recommendations made in its report of 23 May. On 20 October, the strategic-level tripartite mechanism met in Khartoum and was informed of the group's consensus on a number of issues and discussions regarding the modalities, timing and scope of the exit strategy. The mechanism then agreed that the group would resume discussions to allow for further consultations with a view to concluding its work on a draft outcome document. While the group met again in Khartoum from 10 to 14 November, it did not reach a consensus on the practical steps and modalities towards this goal. The group agreed that the matter would be discussed further between the United Nations, the African Union and the Government at the principals level.

VIII. Financial aspects

58. The General Assembly, by its resolution 70/284, appropriated the amount of $1,039.6 million for the maintenance of the Operation from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. As at 29 November, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNAMID amounted to $152.1 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to $2,087.9 million. Reimbursement of troop and formed police costs has been made for the period up to 31 October, while reimbursement of the costs of contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 30 June, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IX. Observations

59. The armed conflict in Darfur has evolved significantly as a result of the military successes of the Government against the armed movements, with the fighting limited to a small part of the Jebel Marra. The Government has also taken steps to curb intercommunal tensions and to reduce crime, especially in the urban centres. In the areas in which active armed conflict has ceased or diminished, the number of civilians and communities directly exposed to its effects has fallen.

60. The evolution of the conflict and the relative calm in many areas of Darfur notwithstanding, crucial grievances regarding the conflict's origin remain unaddressed and long-term solutions need to be found to enable the voluntary return

of displaced persons and the reduction of intercommunal violence. Furthermore, civilians continue to be exposed to sources of grave risk, including the widespread prevalence of weapons, crime, intercommunal disputes and the activities of armed militias.

61. I welcome the declarations of a ceasefire and cessation of hostilities made by the Government and the armed movements in October. While taking note of their continued disagreement over several issues, I urge them to resume direct talks as soon as possible and to adopt a flexible approach aimed at achieving a formal agreement on the cessation of hostilities and humanitarian access and moving speedily towards a political solution to the conflict. I once again call upon the leadership of SLA/AW to demonstrate its commitment to the people of Darfur and join the peace process without preconditions or further delay.

62. The National Dialogue process remains a crucial opportunity for the Sudan to address its internal political conflicts. I call upon the Government and the opposition to maintain their dialogue and work towards achieving the compromises necessary to ensure that this important process is fully inclusive and reflects the views and desires of all Sudanese citizens.

63. Following the formal dissolution of the Darfur Regional Authority, it is important to recognize the efforts made by the signatories to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur to meet their obligations under that agreement. Nevertheless, a number of the provisions on compensation and the return of internally displaced persons and refugees, justice and reconciliation and disarmament, all of which are aimed at addressing the root causes of the conflict, are yet to be implemented. While UNAMID and the United Nations country team will continue to work with and support the successor bodies now functioning under the Office of the President, I call upon the Governments of the Sudan and Qatar and the international community to maintain coordination for this purpose and to fulfil their previous financial pledges made in support of the Doha Document.

64. The absence of a comprehensive peace agreement, the emphasis on military action, the widespread presence of armed militias and the lack of a coherent policy and associated legislation on equitable access to and sustainable management of land and water continue to fuel intercommunal conflict in Darfur. Such situations frequently relapse into conflict in the absence of sufficient support for reconciliation processes and previously concluded peace agreements. While taking note of the efforts made to date, in particular by the state governments and local leaders, I call upon the Government and all stakeholders in Darfur to continue to work with UNAMID and the United Nations country team to strengthen the prevention and mitigation of intercommunal conflict and address its root causes.

65. The plight of the more than 2.6 million people displaced in Darfur remains a cause for major concern. I reiterate my call upon the Government to work with the displaced communities, UNAMID and humanitarian actors to promote the conditions necessary for their voluntary, safe and dignified return or resettlement. I also call upon the Government to provide unfettered access to UNAMID and humanitarian actors to conflict-affected communities to conduct monitoring and verification missions and deliver humanitarian assistance.

66. I am disturbed by the persistent human rights violations and abuses against civilians, in particular internally displaced persons, women and children, in Darfur. Ensuring accountability for serious human rights violations and tackling impunity are critical elements to achieving sustainable peace. I therefore urge the Government to work on strengthening law and order and enhancing accountability in order to create a protective environment. I also call upon the Government to ensure that disarmament efforts are applied to all civilians, regardless of their affiliation, and to take specific measures to control or disband militias, which have become one of the main sources of insecurity for civilians.

67. Delays in the clearance of United Nations-owned and contingent-owned equipment at Port Sudan continue to hamper the ability of UNAMID military and police personnel to implement their mandate effectively. The progress made with the issuance of visas for some personnel notwithstanding, I am concerned that, over the past year, the Government has granted only one visa for the Human Rights Section, which has a vacancy rate of 46 per cent. I urge the Government, consistent with its obligations under the status-of-forces agreement, to take urgent steps to remove all remaining restrictions on UNAMID operations.

68. In conclusion, I express my gratitude to the Joint Special Representative/Joint Chief Mediator, Martin Uhomoibhi, the mission leadership and all the personnel of UNAMID, the United Nations country team and humanitarian partners who continue to work tirelessly towards the pursuit of sustainable peace in Darfur in often very difficult conditions. I also commend my Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, and former Presidents Thabo Mbeki and Abdulsalami Abubakar of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for their steadfast commitment to sustainable peace and stability in the Sudan.

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Letter dated 23 December 2016 from the Chair of the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals containing an account of the Group's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2016 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Elbio **Rosselli**
Chair
Informal Working Group on International Tribunals

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Annex

Report of the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals for 2016

I. Introduction

1. The present report is to inform the Security Council of the work of the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals from 1 January to 31 December 2016.

II. Organizational matters

2. The Working Group was established on an informal basis in 2000 to consider matters relating to the United Nations and United Nations-assisted tribunals, in particular the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The Working Group consists of the legal advisers of the missions of the members of the Security Council and is assisted by the Office of the Legal Counsel of the Office of Legal Affairs and the Security Council Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs.

3. Until 2007, the Working Group's chairmanship followed the monthly rotation of the presidency of the Security Council and it met only on an ad hoc basis. At the end of 2007, given the intensive work relating to residual issues and the completion strategies of the Tribunals pursuant to resolutions 1503 (2003) and 1534 (2004), the Working Group decided to appoint a single Chair and started meeting on a regular basis. Subsequently, the Chair was held by Belgium (2008), Austria (2009 and 2010), Portugal (2011), Guatemala (2012 and 2013) and Chile (2014 and 2015). Uruguay had the honour of chairing the Working Group in 2016.

4. During the reporting period, the Working Group held three meetings, including with the Presidents and the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the principals of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals.

III. Briefings to the Security Council

5. Following previous practice, the Permanent Representative of Uruguay, in his capacity as Chair, briefed the Security Council on the activities of the Working Group on 8 June (7707th meeting) and 8 December 2016 (7829th meeting).

IV. Exchange of views with the Presidents and the Prosecutor of the Tribunal and the Mechanism

6. At its meeting on 7 June 2016, the Working Group held an exchange of views with the Presidents and the Prosecutor of the Tribunal and the Mechanism, in preparation for their briefings to the Security Council on the work and activities of the Tribunal and the Mechanism on 8 June 2016.

7. At its meeting on 6 December 2016, the Working Group held an exchange of views with the Presidents and the Prosecutor of the Tribunal and the Mechanism, in preparation for their briefings to the Security Council on the work and activities of the Tribunal and the Mechanism on 8 December 2016.

8. Following the exchange of views with the Presidents and the Prosecutor of the Tribunal and the Mechanism, the Security Council, in its resolution 2329 (2016), reaffirmed its determination to combat impunity for all those responsible for serious international crimes and the necessity of all persons indicted by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia being brought to justice.

9. In the same resolution, the Security Council reiterated its request to the Tribunal to complete its work and facilitate its closure as expeditiously as possible with the aim of completing the transition to the Mechanism and, in the light of resolution 1966 (2010), to redouble its efforts to review its projected case completion dates with a view towards shortening them as appropriate and to prevent any additional delays. The Security Council also underlined that States should cooperate fully with the Tribunal and the Mechanism and reaffirmed that staff retention is essential for the most expeditious completion of the Tribunal's work.

V. Reappointments of the President, the Prosecutor and Judges of the Mechanism

10. In a letter dated 23 February 2016 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/193), the Secretary-General conveyed his intention to reappoint Judge Theodor Meron (United States of America) as President of the Mechanism. The Secretary-General also nominated Serge Brammertz as Prosecutor of the Mechanism. In a letter dated 27 February 2016 addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2016/194), the President of the Security Council stated that members of the Council had taken note of the letter of the Secretary-General, and had also noted the position expressed by the Russian Federation in a letter dated 27 February 2016 (S/2016/197).

11. In resolution 2269 (2016), the Security Council decided to appoint Serge Brammertz as Prosecutor of the Mechanism with effect from 1 March 2016 until 30 June 2018, and thereafter that the Prosecutor of the Mechanism may be appointed or reappointed for a two-year term, notwithstanding article 14, paragraph 4 of the Statute of the Mechanism. The Security Council also decided that, notwithstanding article 10, paragraph 3 of the Statute of the Mechanism, the judges of the Mechanism may be appointed or reappointed for a two-year term; and that, notwithstanding article 15, paragraph 3 of the Statute of the Mechanism, the Registrar of the Mechanism may be appointed or reappointed for a two-year term.

12. In a letter dated 20 April 2016 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/376), the Secretary-General conveyed his intention to appoint Justice Seymour Panton (Jamaica) as a judge of the Mechanism to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Patrick Robinson (Jamaica) following his election as a judge of the International Court of Justice. In a letter dated 22 April 2016 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

(S/2016/377), members of the Security Council took note of the intention expressed in the letter of the Secretary-General.

13. In a letter dated 3 June 2016 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/526), the Secretary-General conveyed his intention to reappoint 25 judges of the Mechanism for a term of two years, with effect from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2018. In a letter dated 9 June 2016 addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2016/527), the President of the Security Council responded that members of the Security Council had taken note of the information contained in the letter and of the intentions expressed therein by the Secretary-General.

VI. Evaluation report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the Tribunal

14. Pursuant to the request of the Security Council in resolution 2256 (2015), on 12 May 2016 the Office of Internal Oversight Services presented its evaluation report of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia to the Security Council (S/2016/441). The evaluation report assessed the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the methods and work of the Tribunal in implementing the completion strategy during the period 2010-2015, with a focus on the timely completion of judicial activities, staff retention and voluntary separations in the context of the downsizing process.

15. At its meeting on 7 June 2016, the Working Group held an exchange of views on the evaluation report of the Tribunal. The Tribunal reported on the implementation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services recommendations in its report to the Security Council (S/2016/976). The Working Group held further discussions on the evaluation report and the Tribunal's response at its meeting on 6 December 2016.

16. In resolution 2329 (2016), the Security Council commended the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the evaluation report of the Tribunal, and encouraged the Tribunal to include information on the progress towards implementation of the Tribunal's completion strategy in its next six-month report, without prejudice to the primacy given to the completion of its work. The Security Council also welcomed the adoption of the Code of Professional Conduct for the Judges of the Tribunal, which was one of the recommendations in the evaluation report and emphasized the importance of developing a disciplinary mechanism for judges.

VII. Amendment of the Statute of the Tribunal and appointment of an ad hoc judge

17. In a letter dated 5 August 2016 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/693), the Secretary-General transmitted a letter from the President of the Tribunal requesting the ad hoc and temporary appointment of Judge Burton Hall (The Bahamas) to the Appeals Chamber of the Tribunal for the purposes of any interlocutory appeals from the trial of Ratko Mladić.

18. At its meeting on 18 August 2016, the Working Group held an exchange of views at the request of the President of the International Tribunal concerning the proposed appointment.

19. In resolution 2306 (2016), the Security Council decided to amend the Statute of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia by adding article 13 *quinquies*, which allows the Secretary-General, at the request of the President of the International Tribunal and after consultation with the President of the Security Council, to appoint a former judge of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia or of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda who is also a judge of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, as a judge of the International Tribunal, to be assigned on an ad hoc and temporary basis to the Appeals Chamber, notwithstanding article 12, paragraph 3 and article 14 paragraph 3 of the Statute.

20. Subsequently, in a letter dated 13 September 2016 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/794), the Secretary-General conveyed his intention to appoint Judge Burton Hall (The Bahamas) under article 13 *quinquies* of the Statute of the Tribunal. In a letter dated 19 September 2016 addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2016/795), the President of the Security Council stated that the members of the Council had taken note of the intention to appoint Judge Hall as an ad hoc judge of the Tribunal in accordance with article 13 *quinquies* of the Statute.

VIII. Terms of office of the President and the Judges of the Tribunal and reappointment of the Prosecutor

21. In a letter dated 11 November 2016 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/959), the Secretary-General transmitted a letter from the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia requesting the extension of the terms of office of seven permanent judges and one ad hoc judge of the Tribunal until 30 November 2017 or until the completion of the cases to which they are or will be assigned, if sooner. The President of the Tribunal also requested a further extension of his term of office until 31 December 2017 in order to perform the functions required in closing the Tribunal in line with the completion strategy. In the same letter, the Secretary-General nominated Serge Brammertz for reappointment as Prosecutor of the Tribunal until the completion of the work of the Tribunal.

22. At its meeting on 6 December 2016, the Working Group considered the request for an extension of the terms of office of the judges and the President of the Tribunal, as well as the nomination of the Prosecutor. Following negotiations and once an agreement was reached among its members, and taking into account the projected time frames for the completion of the Tribunal's work, the Working Group made recommendations to the Security Council regarding the request and the nomination.

23. In resolution 2329 (2016) of 19 December 2016, the Security Council took note of the request by the President of the Tribunal for a final extension of the terms of office of the permanent judges of the Tribunal, and strongly emphasizing that the extensions and reappointment should be final, decided under this condition to

extend the terms of office of the following permanent judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia until 30 November 2017 or until the completion of cases to which they are or will be assigned, if sooner: Carmel Agius (Malta), Liu Daqun (China), Christoph Flügge (Germany), Theodor Meron (United States of America), Bakone Justice Moloto (South Africa), Alphons Orie (The Netherlands) and Fausto Pocar (Italy); and to reappoint Mr. Serge Brammertz as Prosecutor of the Tribunal, notwithstanding the provisions of article 16, paragraph 4 of the Statute of the Tribunal, for a term with effect from 1 January 2017 until 30 November 2017, subject to earlier termination by the Security Council upon the completion of the work of the Tribunal. The Security Council also extended the term of office of Judge Carmel Agius as President of the Tribunal until 31 December 2017 or until one month after the completion of the cases to which the judges of the Trial Chamber and Appeals Chamber are or will be assigned, if sooner.

IX. Conclusion

24. In 2016 Uruguay was honoured to assume the chairmanship of the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals, giving it the opportunity to reaffirm its firm commitment to the work of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the successfully closed International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals.

25. Aside from the meetings previously referred to in the present report, the Working Group also held informal meetings, in March, October and December 2016, to discuss different issues.

26. The Chair recognizes the important role of the Working Group and thanks each of its members for their commitment in 2016 and for their efforts in supporting the work of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the Mechanism.

27. The Chair would like this positive attitude to continue in 2017 in order to resolve pending issues. Indeed, concluding the year 2016, some unsolved concerns remain. The Chair would like to highlight the concerns expressed by the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia about staffing, issues related to cooperation and arrest warrants and the concerns expressed by the President of the Mechanism about the detention of one Judge of the Mechanism and its consequences in a current case, the search for eight fugitives indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the reintegration of persons who were acquitted or were released after serving their sentences.

28. The Chair is committed to following the developments in the above-mentioned situations in 2017 and calls upon all members of the Organization to actively contribute to resolving those situations, as we remain strong in our belief that international justice must prevail over circumstantial political and financial factors.

29. The Chair emphasizes its commitment to supporting the work of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the Mechanism, giving priority to the dialogue with the Tribunal and the Mechanism, as well as with the States concerned and the Secretariat, for the most expeditious completion of the work.

30. To conclude, the Chair extends its appreciation to the Office of Legal Affairs and the Security Council Affairs Division for their invaluable support during 2016. The Chair would also like to thank the Presidents and the Prosecutor for their commitment to working closely together in furtherance of the mandates and timelines established by the Council. The Chair values the excellent relationship built with all of them during 2016.